

IDEAS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Motto of one club: "I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and lead a trail"

1. Host a "Paint Party" with local artists—invite public, have refreshments, have art judged. Artists supply all their own materials.
2. Hold a Gardening program at the Library either one club or neighboring clubs. Three or more members can each take a topic to discuss—bugs, perennials, or favorite shrub, etc.
3. Have a booth at a Home Show.
4. Choose a "Yard of the Month"—give them publicity—or leave a flyer on the door telling them that they won and invite to a meeting.
5. Send letters to new residents.
6. Provide flowers at City Hall, Library with signage "Courtesy of ____ Garden Club"
7. Have a beautification program in town.
8. Include meeting times in your church bulletin.
9. Have a club competition—challenge members to bring in new members.
10. Notice gardens and gardeners in your area and send complimentary letter and invite them to a meeting.
11. Have a Plant Party—invite the public.
12. Give a Certificate to the "Garden of the Month" and give them a one year membership
13. Have a "Mad Hatter Tea Party." Members and guests must wear hats—perhaps hats decorated for gardening. Everyone gets a prize—invite guests—have an interesting program to attract public—ex. "How to attract hummingbirds to garden."
14. Have a garden tour—invite the public—good money-maker too!
15. Have a "Special Night" party—give pansies to guests and the person who brought them.
16. If there is a parade in your town—have a garden club float
17. Distribute posters in town and at garden centers and libraries inviting public to an event.
18. Distribute flyers to Realtors to give to new residents
19. Have a Landscape Nursery Tour—perhaps they will give you a workshop.
20. Have a Progressive Members' Garden Tour—ex. 9 am coffee and cake—11 am salad—3 pm dessert—Invite new members and prospective members.
21. "PoppySeed" Auction and Luncheon—open to public—fun and money-maker!
22. Christmas house lighting contest—with prizes
23. "Spring Fling" garden luncheon and demo on floral design
24. Potluck Supper—invite a friend and feed them!
25. Plant flower beds at flagpole, nursing home, library, etc. with signs "by _____ GC"
26. Get bright tee shirts with club logo on front—one club had "Wednesday Weeders" on back so that they could be identified when working in public areas.
27. Invite non-members to assist with community activities.
28. Try to have at least one meeting in a public building to attract attention.
29. Always show enthusiasm about your club!
30. Start conversations about gardening when on supermarket or garden nursery lines, especially if they are purchasing plants or flowers.

*Submitted by Adrienne Langan
NGC Membership*